

PATENT APPLICATION

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03/03/2008

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2854**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Terumasa HOSHINO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2854

Application No.: 10/529,726

Examiner: N. HA

Filed: March 30, 2005

Docket No.: 123150

For: SHEET PACKAGE, PACKAGE MEMBER AND PRINTER

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. In reply to the October 19, 2007 Office Action, and January 7, 2008 personal interview, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Ha and Colilla in the January 7 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 6, 8, and 16 are allowed and that claim 13 is allowable. However, as discussed during the personal interview, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,915,229 (Yamada) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,996,991 (Dirx) and claims 9-12, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada and Dirx in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,598,795 (Prenn). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Office Action is applying both Yamada and Prenn as they were applied in the previous Office Action. However, the Office Action now relies on Dirx for the teaching of the "belt shaped member," recited in claims 1, 7, 9, and 15. Specifically, it is alleged in the Office Action that Dirx teaches a strap 78 wound around a sheet stack and that it would have been obvious to apply this teaching to Yamada or Yamada and Prenn "in order to prevent the sheets from being damaged during handling" (Office Action, pp. 2 and 3).

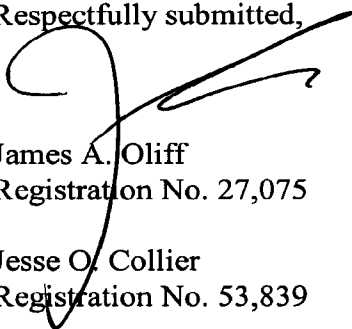
However, as agreed during the personal interview, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to apply the strap 78 of Dirx to the sheet packages of Yamada or Yamada and Prenn "in order to prevent the sheets from being damaged during handling" because Yamada already discloses a light shielding member bag 12 (C5/L47-49 and FIG. 2) that prevents the sheets from being damaged during handling.

Accordingly, as agreed during the personal interview, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JOC/hs

Date: January 11, 2008

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